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SUBJECT: UZBEK S&T: STATUS OF STCU AND ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER
AGENCY

REF: TASHKENT 1151

11. (SBU) SUMMARY. OES/STC Officer Michael C. Schena (ESToff) visited Uzbekistan from June 1 through July 6 to discuss Uzbek Science and Technology (S&T) infrastructure and to continue negotiations on a U.S.-Uzbek S&T Cooperation Agreement (reftel). This cable briefly comments on the status of the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine (STCU) and the role of the Technology Transfer Agency. END SUMMARY

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER IN UKRAINE (STCU)

12. (SBU) Uzbekistan signed a formal accession to the STCU Agreement on December 29, 1997. During 1997-2008, STCU science funding represented a majority portion of Uzbekistan's R&D budget. In total, the STCU funded over 100 projects in Uzbekistan with the cumulative total funding reaching approximately USD 13 million. Some 12,000 scientists from 50 organizations participated in STCU supported projects in Uzbekistan.

13. (SBU) ESToff met with Regina Sattarova, Uzbekistan Office Manager for STCU, who said that STCU has operated in cooperation with Uzbek scientists with a focus on moving former weapons scientists into innovative civilian fields. STCU's cooperation with Uzbekistan has been second only to Ukraine. Projects have focused on energy, agriculture, medical isotopes, water, cereal production, biotech and chemistry. STCU's highpoint was in 2004 with a total of 534 projects totaling \$2.5 million USD in award funding.

14. (SBU) STCU was decertified by the GOU in 2006 and funding for 2007 fell to \$500,000 USD. This fall is in part because the GOU blocks the STCU website, thereby denying scientists' access to STCU resources. Sattarova said she will contact STCU offices in Kyiv to discuss the possibility of STCU working within the framework of the S&T Cooperation Agreement (reftel) to support US-Uzbek collaborative projects in which a USG Agency is a partner or supporting contributor.

15. (SBU) COMMENT: The blocking and effective shutting down of STCU operations in Uzbekistan is bemoaned by almost all Uzbek scientists. Whenever Post personnel meet with Uzbek scientists, the subject of the important role STCU played in

supporting Uzbek science almost always comes up. END COMMENT.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AGENCY (TTA)

16. (SBU) TTA is a self-sustained company owned by the GOU. It was founded in 1996 to promote technology transfer and facilitate trade. TTA focuses on dissemination of technology research to industry and on commercialization.

17. (SBU) ESToff met with Mr. Yulbars Musaev, Director, and Dr. Gulnara Rashidova, Deputy Director. Rashidova explained that TTA had been moved from the S&T Committee and is now under the Ministry of Economy. In this move TTA will take on additional responsibilities including commercialization projects, establishment of an Intellectual Property Regime of Uzbekistan, and a technology transfer regime. This will be in addition to TTA's current role of promoting renewable energy solutions in Uzbekistan with a particular focus on rural regions. TTA has had successful international collaborations and was the local partner for the US Carnegie Funds' "School in a Box" project recently completed in Tajikistan. Rashidova requested that ESToff look to work with USTR, USPTO, and USTDA to help establish a workshop under the S&T Agreement to assist Uzbekistan in establishing Intellectual Property rules and regulations.
BUTCHER